

Year 4 Early Civilisations Knowledge Organiser

Where did life, as we know it today, begin?

Stone Age (Y3) – What are the similarities and differences?

Ancient Egypt (Y5) – What more can do we know about the Egyptians?

★ Star Vocabulary ★

Civilisation A civilisation is the society, culture and way of life of a particular area

AD: Used to show that a date is after the year 0. This is counted forwards, so AD 100 is before AD 200.

BC: Shows that a date is before the year 0. It is counted backwards, like negative numbers on a number line.

Settlements: an uninhabited place where people establish a community.

Hunter-gatherers: Someone who travelled from place to place to hunt animals and gathered wild food to eat.

Archaeologist: someone who studies human history by looking at physical remains and artefacts.

Civilisation: Organised society with its own way of life existing in a particular area over a period of time.

Key facts

- Before there were villages, towns or cities, people used to **be hunter-gatherers**.
- Once people started farming, **settlements** began to be developed in some parts of the world.
- Settlements became villages, towns, then advanced cities.
- The very **first writing system** (using pictures as words) in the world was invented by the Sumerians around **3300 BC**.
- The world's very **first alphabet** was developed by the Phoenicians in around **1200BC**.
- The **first coins** were used in **700 BC** in Lydia, Anatolia (now Turkey).
- The ancient Sumerians invented the **wheel** around the year 4000 BC.
- The very **earliest example** of a temple is Gobekli Tepe which was built around the year **10,000 BC**.



Black History

- The Kingdom of Kush (**1070BC – 300AD**) was an ancient civilisation in Africa. It is often referred to as Nubia and had close ties to Ancient Egypt.
- The people of Nubia were **black Africans**.
- Today, the land of Kush is the country of Sudan.
- The land was **rich in gold** which helped Kush to become wealthy because it could be traded with other nearby nations and iron was used to make strong tools and weapons.
- Like the Egyptians, the Kushites built **pyramids** at burial sites, worshipped gods and mummified the dead.
- Women played an important role and many of the Kushite leaders were **queens**.



Key Skills

- Note connections, contrasts and trends - across time but also between places and cultures.
- Select and use sources to construct their own opinions about the past.
- Start to critique other people's opinions about the past.

